

Applicant : Claribel Chan et al.
Serial No. : 10/624,860
Filed : July 21, 2003
Page : 8 of 16

Attorney's Docket No.: 14066-011001 / 2002P00234 US01

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REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above identified patent application are requested. Claims 1-31 are now in the application with claims 1, 25, and 29 being independent. Claims 1, 3, 9-13, 15, 25, and 29 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Abstract

Per the Office's suggestion, the Abstract has been amended to delete the numeric indicators.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 1-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. This contention is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 29 recites (underlining added for emphasis) "An article comprising a machine-readable medium storing instructions operable to cause one or more machines to perform operations comprising: prompting a user to select at least one business process object and one technology object; receiving user parameters; and designing a business solution using the selected business process object, technology object and user parameters."

As such, the subject matter of claim 29 is clearly within the enumerated categories of patentable subject matter recited in §101 (e.g., machine). Further, claim 29 describes an article that manipulates data associated with physical objects and activities in the real world – namely at least a business process object, a technology object, and user parameters. Additionally, claim 29 achieves a practical application – designing a business solution using the selected business process object, technology object and user parameters.

Independent claims 1 and 25 include limitations similar to those presented in claim 29. For example, the system of claim 1 and the method of claim 25 each recites software operable to design a business solution with user parameters and user-selectable, predefined business objects (or business process objects) and pre-defined technology objects. Thus, the subject matter of claims 1 and 25 also clearly falls within the enumerated categories of patentable subject matter

Applicant : Claribel Chan et al.
Serial No. : 10/624,860
Filed : July 21, 2003
Page : 9 of 16

Attorney's Docket No.: 14066-011001 / 2002P00234 US01

recited in §101. Further, claims 1 and 25 also describe, respectively, a system and method that manipulate data associated with physical objects and activities in the real world to achieve a practical application – designing a business solution.

The result produced by claims 1, 25, and 29 – a business solution – is useful, concrete, and tangible. The Office objects (Action of July 5, 2006 at 2-3) that the field of business to which the business solution relates is not identified and that there is thus no real world application. This is incorrect. For example, the field of business can be influenced by the selected business process object, technology object, and user parameters. Moreover, the new guidelines for 35 U.S.C. §101 identified by the Office (Action of July 5, 2006 at 3) provide (underlining added for emphasis) "Accordingly, a complete definition of the scope of 35 U.S.C. Sec. 101, reflecting Congressional intent, is that any new and useful process, machine, manufacture or composition of matter under the sun that is made by man is the proper subject matter of a patent." Therefore, in view of these remarks, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of these claims under §101.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1, 3, 9-13, 15, and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention. The Office (Action of July 5, 2006 at 4) asserts that the word "'Manage' fails to clearly state what is required or needed."

Without conceding the propriety of this rejection, and solely to execute prosecution, claims 1, 3, 9-13, 15, and 25 have been amended to replace the word "manage" with the phrase "maintain and modify". For example, as amended, claim 1 recites "... the software being operable to allow a user to (a) design a business solution with user parameters and user-selectable, pre-defined business objects and pre-defined technology objects, and (b) maintain and modify the business solution designed by the user." As such, the claim language clearly satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Applicant : Claribel Chan et al.
Serial No. : 10/624,860
Filed : July 21, 2003
Page : 10 of 16

Attorney's Docket No.: 14066-011001 / 2002P00234 US01

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,339,832 to Bowman-Armuah ("Bowman"). These contentions are respectfully traversed.

CLAIM 1

Amended claim 1 recites (underlining added for emphasis) "A business solution management system comprising software stored in a medium, the software being operable to allow a user to (a) design a business solution with user parameters and user-selectable, pre-defined business objects and pre-defined technology objects, and (b) maintain and modify the business solution designed by the user."

The Office (Action of July 5, 2006 at 5) asserts that the user parameters, business objects, and technology objects recited in claim 1 are equivalent to the domain, objects, and classes disclosed by Bowman. The Applicants disagree.

The specification (00272) indicates that (underlining added for emphasis) "Business Process Object Management 522 (Fig. 5) provides standard BSM 'business objects,' which encompass 'business areas' 1202, 'processes' 1204, 'activities' 1206 and 'steps' 1208....A 'business object' contributes to the object-based business requirements definition of a solution." Further, the specification (00288) states that (underlining added for emphasis) "A 'technology object' exists for each technology component and each configuration structure...the technology object clearly describes the functionality and its purpose in the architecture,...." Additionally, the specification (00278) provides that parameters "...are assigned to the object's definition and are filled with values when creating an instance." Equivalents to these terms are not disclosed in Bowman.

Bowman (Col. 14, lines 34-41) states that (underlining added for emphasis) "...a framework basically is a collection of cooperating classes that make up a reusable design

Applicant : Claribel Chan et al.
Serial No. : 10/624,860
Filed : July 21, 2003
Page : 11 of 16

Attorney's Docket No.: 14066-011001 / 2002P00234 US01

solution for a given problem domain. It typically includes objects that provide default behavior (e.g., for menus and windows),...." Bowman further explains the meaning of these terms.

With respect to the term problem domain, Bowman (Col. 12, lines 52-54) states that "Objects and their corresponding classes break down complex programming problems into many smaller, simpler problems." As such, Bowman indicates that a problem domain represents one or more programming problems for which classes can make up a solution. Therefore, the problem domain disclosed by Bowman is not equivalent to a business process object, a technology object, or a user parameter, as claimed.

Further, with respect to classes, Bowman (Col. 13, lines 4-6) discloses that "Class hierarchies and containment hierarchies provide a flexible mechanism for modeling real-world objects and the relationships among them." Bowman (Col. 13, lines 30-42) also explains that a framework of class libraries (underlining added for emphasis) "... consists of significant collections of collaborating classes that capture both the small scale patterns and major mechanisms that implement the common requirements and design in a specific application domain." Therefore, the classes disclosed by Bowman also are not equivalent to the claimed business process object, technology object, or user parameter.

Additionally, Bowman (Col. 14, lines 34-41) explains that objects provide default behavior for a framework. Bowman (Col. 10, lines 58-64) further defines an object as "...a software package that contains both data and a collection of related structures and procedures. Since it contains both data and a collection of structures and procedures, it can be visualized as a self-sufficient component that does not require other additional structures, procedures or data to perform its specific task." Thus, the object disclosed by Bowman also is not equivalent to the claimed business process object, technology object, or user parameter.

Therefore, the domain, classes, and objects disclosed by Bowman are not equivalent to the user parameters, business objects, and technology objects recited in claim 1.

Moreover, while Bowman (Col. 21, lines 52-60) states that (underlining added for emphasis) "A properly defined and intelligently developed architecture delivers an infrastructure

Applicant : Claribel Chan et al.
Serial No. : 10/624,860
Filed : July 21, 2003
Page : 12 of 16

Attorney's Docket No.: 14066-011001 / 2002P00234 US01

on which clients can build and enhance applications that support their current and future business needs". Bowman does not disclose designing a business solution, as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, even when given the broadest reasonable interpretation, Bowman does not disclose, teach, or suggest software operable to allow a user to (a) design a business solution with user parameters and user-selectable, pre-defined business objects and pre-defined technology objects, and (b) maintain and modify the business solution designed by the user.

For at least these reasons, claim 1 is allowable over Bowman. Claims 2-24 depend from claim 1. Therefore, dependent claims 2-24 are allowable for at least the reasons discussed with respect to claim 1.

CLAIM 25

The Applicants' amended claim 25 calls for (underlining added for emphasis) "providing at least first and second software applications, the first software application being operable to allow a user to design a business solution with user parameters and user-selectable, pre-defined business process objects and pre-defined technology objects, the second software application being operable to allow a user to maintain and modify the business solution...." Bowman fails to disclose, teach, or suggest this combination of features.

The Office (Action of July 5, 2006 at 12) asserts that the "system software" and "management systems" of Bowman correspond to the first and second software applications disclosed in claim 25 (the Office indicated "agents", which are not mentioned). The Applicants disagree.

Bowman does not disclose software with the claimed functionality. Bowman (Col. 116, lines 51-57) states that (underlining added for emphasis) "The ability to interface with the host-based hardware, system software, and database management systems is critical. This is essential because the workflow system is located between the client-based and host-based processes, ie it can initiate client-based as well as host-based applications;...." Thus, Bowman (*Id.*) merely indicates that a workflow system can interface with the host-based system software and the host-based database management systems. Bowman does not disclose, teach, or suggest that the host-

Applicant : Claribel Chan et al.
Serial No. : 10/624,860
Filed : July 21, 2003
Page : 13 of 16

Attorney's Docket No.: 14066-011001 / 2002P00234 US01

based system software or database management systems are operable (underlining added for emphasis) "to allow a user to design a business solution with user parameters and user-selectable, pre-defined business process objects and pre-defined technology objects..." or "...to allow a user to maintain and modify the business solution...."

Further, Bowman (*Id.*) clarifies that the host-based "management systems" called out by the Office are database management systems. Bowman (Col. 52, lines 32-34) indicates that "Most database management systems provide access control at the database, table, or row level as well as concurrency control." Bowman does not, however, disclose, teach, or suggest that a database management system is operable to allow a user to design a business solution or to maintain and modify the business solution, as claimed.

Additionally, claim 25 recites (underlining added for emphasis) "...providing a data repository comprising the pre-defined business process objects and pre-defined technology objects."

The Office (Action of July 5, 2006 at 12) asserts that the central design repository of Bowman corresponds to the data repository recited in claim 25. The Applicants disagree.

Bowman (Col. 37, lines 45-53) states that (underlining added for emphasis) "If the development team is more than 5 people, a tool should provide support for multiple developers." Bowman (*Id.*) goes on to explain that "This support includes features such as object check-in/check-out, a central design repository for the storage of application objects and user interface definitions, and version control." Thus, the central design repository disclosed by Bowman stores items utilized by a development team. Conversely, claim 25 indicates that the business process objects and the technology objects comprising the data repository are utilized by a user to design a business solution.

Moreover, Bowman discloses (Col. 48, lines 17-33) that application objects stored in the central design repository represent physical entities, such as stocks, portfolios, or a trading floor. Bowman also indicates (*e.g.*, Col. 76, lines 21-24 and Col. 186, line 24 to Col. 187, line 9) that the user interface definitions stored in the central design repository define interfaces used to access services and to communicate.

Applicant : Claribel Chan et al.
Serial No. : 10/624,860
Filed : July 21, 2003
Page : 14 of 16

Attorney's Docket No.: 14066-011001 / 2002P00234 US01

The data repository of claim 25, however, comprises pre-defined business process objects and pre-defined technology objects. The specification (00275) indicates that (underlining added for emphasis) "The business process object 1204 provides the business objectives and goals of the process scope." Further, the specification (00288) indicates that (underlining added for emphasis) "A 'technology object' exists for each technology component and each configuration structure...the technology object clearly describes the functionality and its purpose in the architecture, as well as other specific information." Thus, the application objects and user interface definitions disclosed by Bowman do not comprise the claimed business process objects and technology objects. Therefore, Bowman does not disclose, teach, or suggest providing a data repository comprising the pre-defined business process objects and pre-defined technology objects.

For at least these reasons, independent claim 25 is allowable over Bowman. Further, claims 26-28 depend from claim 25 and are at least allowable based on claim 25.

CLAIM 29

Amended claim 29 recites (underlining added for emphasis) "prompting a user to select at least one business process object and one technology object; receiving user parameters; and designing a business solution using the selected business process object, technology object and user parameters."

As similarly discussed above with respect to claim 1, the Office (Action of July 5, 2006 at 13) asserts that the parameters, business process objects, and technology objects recited in claim 29 are equivalent to the domain, objects, and classes disclosed by Bowman. The Applicants disagree.

The specification (00288) indicates that (underlining added for emphasis) "A 'technology object' exists for each technology component and each configuration structure...the technology object clearly describes the functionality and its purpose in the architecture, as well as other specific information." The specification (00278) also provides that parameters "...are assigned to the object's definition and are filled with values when creating an instance." Additionally, the

Applicant : Claribel Chan et al.
Serial No. : 10/624,860
Filed : July 21, 2003
Page : 15 of 16

Attorney's Docket No.: 14066-011001 / 2002P00234 US01

specification (00275) states that (underlining added for emphasis) "The business process object 1204 provides the business objectives and goals of the process scope." Equivalents to these terms are not disclosed in Bowman.

As discussed above with respect to claim 1, Bowman provides the meanings of the terms domain, object, and class. Even when given the broadest reasonable interpretation, the problem domain, class, and object disclosed by Bowman are not equivalent to the user parameters, business process object, and technology object recited in claim 29.

Moreover, Bowman does not disclose prompting a user to select a domain, an object, or a class. Bowman also does not disclose receiving a domain, an object, or a class from a user. Therefore, irrespective of any equivalence, Bowman does not disclose, teach, or suggest designing a business solution using the selected business process object, technology object and user parameters, as claimed.

For at least these reasons, independent claim 29 is allowable over Bowman. Further, claims 30 and 31 depend from claim 29 and are at least allowable based on claim 29.

Concluding Comments

By responding in the foregoing remarks only to particular positions taken by the Office, the Applicants do not acquiesce to other positions taken by the Office that have not been explicitly traversed. Additionally, the Applicants' arguments for the patentability of a claim presented in this response should not be understood to indicate that no further reasons for the patentability of that claim exist.

Applicant : Claribel Chan et al.
Serial No. : 10/624,860
Filed : July 21, 2003
Page : 16 of 16

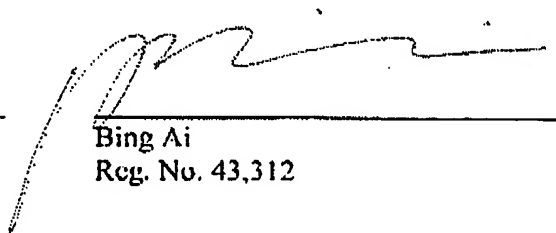
Attorney's Docket No.: 14066-011001 / 2002P00234 US01

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Respectfully submitted,

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